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Hispanic News

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Wednesday  
 January 17, 2001  
 Volume 14  
 Number 9



# INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS

**Serving the Hispanic Communities in the Inland Empire**

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 • Victor Valley • Riverside • Casa Blanca • Corona

**The Inland Empire's only Hispanic Minority Owned English Language Newspaper**

## CITIZENS OF CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO TAKE TO OPPOSING SIDES OF RACIAL DIVIDE

By: Jessica Carney



Community persons held a rally on January 8 in front of the San Bernardino City Hall protesting against City Attorney Jim Penman's letter chastising Valente Duran for publicly stating that "in Mexico, they treat us better than here." Penman's letter suggested to Duran a choice "to accept an offer to arrange and pay for transportation for you and your family, one way, to Mexico." MAPA is asking for Penman's resignation. Photo by IEHN

As the New Year dawned, public outcry and outrage loomed heavily around an issue that pitted San Bernardino City Attorney James F. Penman against Valente Duran, a Mexican immigrant who is a legal U.S. resident.

Ninety residents of the dilapidated Cypress Inn Trailer Park on Mount Vernon Avenue in San Bernardino were required to leave their homes on Dec 14, 2000 after city inspectors deemed their dwellings unsafe.

City officials found gas leaks, exposed wiring and raw sewage at the park. They promptly ordered 26 mobile homes closed and evacuated the residents to the EZ-8 Motel on Waterman Avenue. Food was pro-

vided to the relocated families by the city via the Salvation Army.

One resident, Valente Duran, upset about the evacuation that came without warning and just before Christmas expressed his dissent to a reporter and was quoted in a local newspaper on December 19 as saying, "In Mexico, they treat us better than here."

In response to Duran's comment, City Attorney James Penman drafted a letter to Duran the next day - an excerpt of the letter, as follows, sparked the controversy in which the city is now embroiled:

"The people of this City have no desire to deprive you or your family

*Continue on Page 7*

## GOVERNOR DAVIS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE



Governor Gray Davis today announced the appointment of Supervising Deputy District Attorney Helios "Joe" Hernandez as a judge of the Riverside County Superior.

Mr. Hernandez, 56 of Riverside is a veteran prosecutor with extensive trial and supervisory experience in the Riverside County District Attorney's office, where he has worked since 1980. As a trial attorney during his first 10 years in the office, he completed more than 80 jury trials and over 100 juvenile court trials. As a Supervising Deputy District Attorney for the last 11 years, Mr. Hernandez has been responsible for the Juvenile Division, Filing Division and Prelimi-

nary Hearings Division of the office. He currently heads the narcotics Prosecution Division.

From 1978 to 1979, he was in private practice as a sole practitioner. He is a former president of the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association and the Stanford Club of the Inland Empire. Mr. Hernandez has also served on the board of Inland Counties Legal Services and is a former chair of the Criminal Law Section of the Riverside County Bar Association.

After completing his college education at Stanford University, he served from 1967 to 1970 in the U.S. Navy, where he was an officer stationed aboard the USS Kittyhawk aircraft carrier. His ship was engaged in the Vietnam War during all of 1969.

Mr. Hernandez earned a juris doctorate degree from the University of Southern California. He will receive a salary of \$133,051. Mr. Hernandez fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Curtis R. Hinman.

## BISHOP BARNES ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF AUXILIARY BISHOP



Most Reverend Gerald Barnes, Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino, announced on Tuesday, January 16, the appointment of Monsignor Dennis P. O'Neil as Auxiliary Bishop-Elect by His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

"I am grateful to our Holy Father for sending Bishop-Elect O'Neil to assist me in my pastoral ministry to the people of God in the Inland Empire," stated Bishop Barnes to a large gathering of personnel and public at the diocese administrative headquar-

ters on Highland Avenue in San Bernardino. "I ask all the people of the Diocese to pray for Bishop-Elect O'Neil as he begins this new ministry. Our Diocese will be blessed by the many gifts that Bishop-Elect O'Neil brings to the Catholic Community of the Riverside and San Bernardino Counties."

O'Neil, speaking in both English and excellent Spanish, stated that he had known and visited the mountains, campgrounds and golf courses in the

*Continue on Page 3*

### IN THIS ISSUE

INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS EDITORIAL	PG 2
INLAND EMPIRE LEGISLATOR ANNOUNCES SENATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION	PG 2
UNIVERSITY NAMES MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR	PG 2
LOS PADRINOS INDUCTS NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS	PG 3
CONGRESSMAN BACA WINS KEY PARTY POSITION	PG 5
WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL COUNSELOR?	PG 5
EVERY VOTE MUST COUNT	PG 6
RED CROSS OF INLAND EMPIRE	PG 6
OFFERS FREE CAREGIVER CLASS	PG 6



## UNIVERSITY NAMES MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR



The University of Redlands welcomes Director of Multicultural Affairs Juan Carlos Astorga of San Diego to head the campus' new Multicultural Center. The center opened this academic year after a student-driven effort that began a year earlier. It is the 32<sup>nd</sup> multicultural or cross-cultural center on a college campus in California, according to the California Council of Cross Cultural Centers in Higher Education.

About 30 percent of the university's 1,800 students in the College of Art

and Sciences come from underrepresented populations.

"We're very excited to have a person of Astorga's background and ability heading this important area," said the university Dean of Student Life Char Burgess. "Our population is yearly becoming more diverse, and that range of experiences can be a valuable resource for the entire university community."

Astorga comes to Redlands from the University of California, San Diego, where he served as the assistant director/program coordinator of the university's Cross Cultural Center. As an undergraduate, Astorga was part of a student coalition that pushed for creation of the center which opened in 1995.

"We needed a niche," Astorga said of the center. "We wanted a safe space, an area of comfort." Before the center, students celebrated their own holidays and held events independently, he said. The center provided a nucleus to host such events.

Astorga received his bachelor's degree in ethnic studies with a minor in psychology from UC San Diego. He received his master's degree in education with an emphasis in counseling from San Diego State University.

Astorga who will also serve as assistant director of Community Service Learning said the center at Redlands will be a "community center" for the university, offering a resource for everyone on campus, not just students.

"It's not just for minorities," he said. "It's a place and a space that is open to all backgrounds experiences, including sexuality, economic and religion."

Astorga plans to hold weekly multicultural forums at the center, as well as create a diversity peer project to train students to facilitate diversity workshops and coordinate some cultural exchanges for students.

"This can be another retention tool, but can also be seen as a recruitment tool," said Astorga.

### FAMILY/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SPANISH SUPPORT GROUPS!

**Option House, Inc.** has set its next family/domestic violence Spanish support groups on  
Mondays from 2:30-4:30 at  
3333 North "E" Street in  
San Bernardino  
or Tuesdays  
from 8:00-10:00am  
at 980 Bloomington Ave. Suite B.  
Bloomington.  
Call (909) 882-0082,  
8:00am-5:00pm  
for additional information.

## INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS EDITORIAL

Valente Duran expressed disapproval of the city of San Bernardino's tactics in evacuating him and his family from what the city deemed to be "unsafe living conditions" and relocating them in a motel with 90 other mobile home park residents.

"They treat us better in Mexico than here," Duran told a newspaper reporter.

City Attorney James Penman counter-attacked with a two-page letter that has sparked public outrage.

The recent fervor surrounding Penman's remarks, offering the City's money to finance the Duran family's one way trip back to Mexico lead the Inland Empire Hispanic News to ask, "Is Penman a racist, or were his comments simply made with poor judgment?"

Penman has said he felt offended by Duran's act of biting the hand that feeds him - criticizing the City that was paying for food and lodging and helping the family relocate.

Penman has a right to feel offended, but to express those feelings publicly is unprofessional. Public officials or employees of public agencies, or anyone who deals with the public should be acclimated to fielding hostile remarks or accusations from citizens. Such public figures should be able to use finesse when dealing with citizens who, by all rights, are allowed to complain.

As a public official, Penman should have been able to overlook a statement made by an irate citizen. Had Penman responded to Duran in a tactful, professional manner he would have alleviated a confrontational situation.

## INLAND EMPIRE LEGISLATOR ANNOUNCES SENATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION STUDENTS WILL GET FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE ON HOW POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT OPERATE AT THE STATE LEVEL

Senator Nell Soto announced today the availability of applications for the 2001-2002 Senate Fellowship Program. This 11-month program gives 18 college graduates the opportunity to become full-time Senate staff working on fiscal and policy issues in a legislator's capitol office.

"We definitely have top-notch Inland Empire students who can greatly benefit from this unique program," boasts Soto. I strongly encourage all interested students to apply."

Students participate in weekly academic seminar with legislative members, senior staff, journalists, lobbyists, and state government officials earning 12 graduate credits from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). The program pays the student a monthly stipend of \$1,882, plus health, dental and vision benefits. The Center for California Studies at CSUS

ation.

As an experienced, elected official and a longtime member of the community, Penman has dealt with people on every social, economic and political level. He has, no doubt, been confronted by people making inappropriate remarks and criticisms in the past.

Given the profile of his elected office and the years of experience he has as a public figure, we feel that Penman violated his responsibility to restrain his remarks and written statements.

The City has the Fire Department and the Building and Safety Code Enforcement Officers who are responsible for inspecting buildings and mobile homes to determine whether a problem justifies moving people from their homes. The City also has the Economic Development Agencies to help displaced families.

So the Hispanic News also asks, "Why was Penman involved in this evacuation?" "Should he have been involved at all?"

With the Mexican American Political Association pushing for Penman's resignation and the City Council meeting to determine Penman's future power and influence in the City, perhaps answers to our questions will come to light.

Mayor Judith Valles and citizens have been in a positive mode to transcend San Bernardino into a vital community and project a positive image to enhance the economic engine and improve the quality of life for its residents.

Deterrence to this goal is a step backwards.

administers the program in conjunction with the California State Senate.

The application deadline is February 28, 2001. The only prerequisite for the program is a degree from a four-year college or university. Although no previous political or legislative experience is required, applicants should have a strong interest in public policy and politics. Individuals with advanced degrees, or those in mid career, are also encouraged to apply.

Applications are available by calling Senator Soto's District Offices in Ontario at (909) 984-7741 or in San Bernardino at (909) 381-3832. You may also request an application brochure from CSUS at (916) 278-6906 or download from the Senate Web site: [www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/home](http://www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/home).



### Inland Empire HISPANIC NEWS

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- Jessica Carney

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Telephone (909) 381-6259  
Fax (909) 384-0419  
Email [hispanic\\_news@eee.org](mailto:hispanic_news@eee.org)  
Office:  
1558-D North Waterman  
San Bernardino, CA 92404



### LOS PADRINOS INDUCTS NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS



Los Padrinos of Southern California recently inducted new officers at the Gents Community Center, San Bernardino, for calendar year 2001-2002: (left to right) Joe Acosta, Director; Julian Weaver, Director; Susan Moss, Alternate Director; Norris Choisrea, Treasurer; Chico Porras, Vice Chairman; Diana McCafferty, Director; Richard Tornero, Director; Martin Valdez, Retiring Chairman and Albert Gomez, Chairman. Los Padrinos has worked with "challenged" youth since early 1970's, providing training programs and counseling.

## ADVERTISE IN THE INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS

### DEL MONTE: MAKING LIFE EASIER WHILE ADDING NUTRITION

Preparing tasty and healthy meals for a family can be a challenge, especially when the pressures of daily life limit free time. But families that use *Del Monte* products know how to make meal preparation easier and enjoyable. *Del Monte* fruits, tomatoes and vegetables, served in over 80% of America's households, have been providing excellent quality and taste for over 100 years. This traditional company continues to provide quality meal solutions for busy moms and families.

Your family's favorite traditional dishes can be made easier with *Del Monte*'s many quality products. When preparing tacos, tostadas, quesadillas, salsas and countless other entrees, using *Del Monte* adds healthy goodness to your favorite, great-tasting Latino meals.

Adding vegetables to classic Latino meals brings fresh taste and good health to families for example, *Del Monte* offers several types of corn that can be included in many favorite dishes such as Mexican Style rice, salsa and taco meat, just to name a few. Corn also provides valuable fiber, which aids in digestion. For a sweet taste, consider using *Del Monte* Whole Kernel Corn. For a touch of spice, try *Del Monte* Fiesta Corn.

Carrots, always a favorite with both adults and kids, are a popular source of Vitamin A. Try *Del Monte* Sliced Carrots or *Del Monte* Peas and Carrots with your next meal.

In addition to great vegetables, *Del Monte* offers a wide range of fruits, including several varieties of pineapple which are rich in Vitamin C and are quite versatile. They are great in dinner courses, and desserts, as a topping for ice cream or cake. Accompaniments to pineapple in the *Del Monte* family of foods include many other fruits ideal for nutritious side dishes, desserts or snacks. *Del Monte* Tropical Fruit Salad is a flavorful dish that also contains important Vitamin C. Another treat with Vitamin C is *Del Monte* Mixed Fruit, a sensible dessert or snack for the kids.

Tomatoes, which provide Vitamin C, are a mainstay of Latino recipes. The wide variety of *Del Monte* tomatoes allows families to make great-tasting Latino meals with ease. *Del Monte* tomatoes allows families to make great-tasting Latino Meals with ease. *Del Monte* Diced Tomatoes with Green Pepper & Onion is perfect choice for salsa. Ground beef for tacos will burst with flavor when mixed with *Del Monte* Diced Tomatoes Seasoned with Jalapeños or Green Chiles. Experimenting with other *Del Monte* tomato products will keep meals lively and interesting.

Great meals bring families together, and *Del Monte* is proud of its ability to be a part of this family tradition. By making delicious home-cooking easier, and reducing the amount of time you spend in the kitchen, *Del Monte Foods*, look for easy recipes on *Del Monte* canned vegetables, fruits and tomatoes, or visit *Del Monte's* website at [www.delmonte.com](http://www.delmonte.com).

### BISHOP BARNES ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF AUXILIARY BISHOP

*Continued from Page 1*

area. "I will now be able to know and love the best part of all, the wonderful people of God in the Diocese of San Bernardino."

"I feel very privileged to be appointed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the College of Bishops and happy to be assigned as Auxiliary to Bishop Gerald Barnes," he said. "I ask for everyone's prayers, I seek the Lord's guidance and steady hand upon me. I will always do his will, serving to the best of my ability our Diocesan Bishop and all the people of God."

O'Neil will assist with the pastoral and administrative duties of the diocese and will be the diocesan administrator of the diocese, except in certain duties, in the event that the bishop is incapacitated.

O'Neil was born in Fremont, Nebraska and the oldest of nine children. The family moved to Glendale where he attended local Catholic elementary schools, Loyola High School and Loyola University. He studied theology at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, California and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Los Angeles in 1966.

He served as associate pastor in

Placentia, Santa Ana, Burbank (working with Vietnamese refugees) and was a missionary for five years in the Diocese of Juneau, Alaska.

In 1986, O'Neil was named pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Pico-Union in Los Angeles, working with Central American refugees and indigenous people from Guatemala and Mexico, primarily helping the people "feel at home in their church and celebrate their faith."

In 1995, he was named a Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II and raised to the title of monsignor.

After 14 years at St. Thomas, O'Neil was assigned to St. Emydius Parish in Lynwood, California and current pastor.

He is close to his large family, consisting of 41 nieces and nephews. He enjoys snow skiing, hiking and bicycling and coaches youth soccer, basketball and flag football.

The diocese covers the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino and over 27,000 square miles. The Catholic population is nearing one million persons. The area's Hispanic population is approximately 38 to 40 percent of which 98 percent is Catholic.

### CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE LATE REGISTRATION FOR SPRING SEMESTER UNDERWAY

Crafton Hills College's (CHC) late registration for spring semester is now to January 26. This will also be the period for students who are currently registered at CHC

to add or drop classes. First day of classes for Spring Semester was January 16.

Office hours for the CHC Admissions and Records Department  
January 16 - 26 will be:

\* Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
\* Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Office hours for the Registration Office  
January 16 - 26 will be:

\* Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
\* Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Admissions applications and free spring class schedules can be obtained from the CHC Admissions Office, located in the college's Student Services Building, Room 213 (next to the clock tower). New students need to visit the CHC Admissions Office and fill out the application form. They will also need to go to the CHC Assessment Testing Center to take their assessment test, and then talk to a counselor prior to registering for classes at the Registration Office, located in the CHC Cafeteria.

The sooner students complete the application process, the better chance they have of getting into the classes they want.

CHC Admissions and Records Director Brenda Davis emphasized that new students and continuing students interested in registering for full-term, 18-week courses will be required to get signatures from the respective

Instructors of the classes in order to get into the classes.

Students interested in taking short-term classes, most of which start later in the semester, can still add the classes over the telephone registration system or visit to registration area. Instructors signatures for short-term classes will not be required until after the first day of these classes.

For more information about registration, call the CHC Admissions Office at 389-3372 or visit the office in person.

CHC is located at 11711 Sand Canyon Road in Yucaipa.

A list of spring classes and times is available on the college's web page at [chc.sbccd.cc.ca.us](http://chc.sbccd.cc.ca.us)



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Wheel Alignment and Brakes  
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**SPRING CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 16TH**



### CONGRESSMAN BACA WINS KEY PARTY POSITION

Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) started the new 107<sup>th</sup> Congress today by being elected to a key Democratic Caucus position in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Baca, who has served for a year and is beginning his second term in Congress, was elected to the position of regional whip on the influential Democratic Steering Committee. Baca will serve as the whip for Region One, which includes the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. The whip position is responsible for the organizational operations of the committee.

"This is an affirmation of the backing and support I have gained over the past year from my Democratic colleagues in the House, Baca said. "I am proud to serve in this important position and look forward to a busy and productive 107<sup>th</sup> Congress."

The Democratic Steering Committee is charged with the responsibility of establishing the appointment of party members to committees of the House of Representatives.

In addition to attaining the Democratic Steering Committee position, Baca was also recently named as whip of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL COUNSELOR?

School Counselors play a vital role in the education of your child. They are the professionals in schools who are educated and trained to work with students in terms of human development, career choice, college or university choices, and to assist them in dealing with some of the "problems in living" and relationship issues that come their way. Yet few people understand the education and preparation that these professionals must have to be certified as School Counselors.

In all states, school counselors are certified by the State Department of Education. Most states require a school counselor to have an undergraduate degree in either elementary or secondary education from an accredited college or university and to meet the requirements to become certified as a teacher. A few states also require from 3 to 5 years of classroom teaching experience to be a School Counselor.

In other states, an undergraduate degree in a field such as child Development is also acceptable. In addition to the undergraduate degree and, in some cases, actual teaching experience, a Masters' degree in Counseling is required. School Counseling Master's degree programs must be accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) to meet the certification requirements in virtually all states. Either accreditation body guarantees that the graduate has appropriate course work and supervised experience in understanding and working with children and youth.

The importance of having such a professional in the school is two-fold. First, all educators agree that you cannot teach children if you cannot reach them. Barriers to the child's education come in many forms. While many of these barriers may seem insignificant in adult terms, they are very real for the child facing them.

An example might be that sometimes kids, especially elementary age children, feel as though "no one likes me" if they are not in the most popular crowd of students. Such insecurities are a normal part of growing up

and do affect the learning process. The school counselor can help a child see that not being popular with particular students or specific groups of students is not the same as "nobody likes me." If a child is struggling with these self-concept issues at school, it can certainly affect his or her academic performance.

There are also significant issues in the development of a child's self-concept, especially around the age of puberty and early adolescence. This is when children begin to develop an identity of their own, apart from that of their parents. Peers become even more important and a middle school or high school student is more likely to confide in their friends than any adult, including parents. This state of development requires special patience and understanding, along with a great deal of skill on the part of the parent. This is another point where School Counselors can be helpful, both to the child and the parent.

School Counselors do not tell a child what to think but rather assist him or her in learning how to think. School Counselors help students develop the skills necessary to make decisions and solve problems in a responsible way. To do this, a myriad of tools are available to School Counselors.

Assessment instruments that will help with career decisions, information on colleges and universities that offer quality programs in the area of the student's interest, and scholarship information are only a few of the most popular and most familiar tools. But School Counselors are also trained to assist with personal problems and in helping teachers and parents evaluate the seriousness of the difficulties and situations a child may be facing. The School Counselor can also serve as an excellent referral source to further mental health counseling assistance if needed.

If you have not yet done so, it is worth taking the time to get to know the School Counselor who works at your child's school and to understand the services he or she can provide. The special training and experience School Counselors have to offer can be a valuable asset for any parent trying to raise a healthy, happy, well-adjusted child.

### GRATIS!!!

### SERVICIOS DE CIUDADANIA

- Si usted es un Residente Permanente y le gustaria hacerse ciudadano Estado Unidense
- Si usted ya aplico para la Ciudadania hace mas de un año y no ha escuchado nada de inmigracion
- Si usted o su esposo(a) ya son ciudadanos sus hijos pueden adquirir la ciudadania por usted(es).

Llamos al (909) 388-1243 estamos aqui para ayudarle y es GRATIS...GRATIS...GRATIS...

Si, escucho bien. Si es usted residente del condado de Riverside y es elegible para aplicar para la ciudadania, usted recibira los servicios de Naturalizacion (ciudadania) sin ningun costo para usted. Por parte de la oficina de Caridades Catolicas. Todo lo que necesita es pagar la cuota de Inmigracion. Nuestros empleados certificados por el BIA, le aseguran con un alto grado de precision la completacion de su aplicacion.

Asistencia y materiales incluyen:

- Llenar la aplicacion de Naturalizacion (ciudadania)
- Tomar Fotografias
- Averiguar y dar referencia
- Investigacion con Inmigracion sobre su peticion

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(Citrus & Fontana Rd.)  
427-8960

**San Bernardino**  
1256 W. 5th Street  
(at Mt. Vernon)  
885-5598

**Highland**  
3553 E. Highland Ave.  
(Highland & Palm)  
864-5381

**Redlands**  
802 W. Colton Ave.  
(Colton & Texas)  
793-3885

**New Highland**

1014 E. Highland Ave.  
(Across Perris Hill Park, Next to Pizza Hut)  
881-4191

### SPANISH SPEAKING SELF-DEFENSE CLASS OFFERED BY RIVERSIDE AREA RAPE CRISIS CENTER

*As a result of the success of the first self-defense class held in October 2000, the Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center will be sponsoring a second class this coming February. The two-part self-defense class will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2001 from 12:00 PM to 4:00PM. The Classes will be held at: YWCA, 8172*

*Magnolia Ave., Riverside, CA 92504.*

*If you would like more information on registration, please contact Rebeca M. Meléndez at (909) 686-7273*

### TEACHER JOB FAIR

The Certificated Human Resources Department is sponsoring a Teacher Job Fair on Saturday, February 3, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fair will be held at the San Bernardino Adult Education Building 1200 North "E" Street, San Bernardino. Anyone who is interested in a career in education with the San Bernardino City Unified School District should not miss this event. There will be on-site interviews and information on teaching credential requirements. Representatives from various departments within the District will also be available to answer questions. For more information, please call 381-1228.



## EVERY VOTE MUST COUNT

By Bradley J. Clark

President, California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

Much has been written over the past weeks regarding the election system in the United States. Many questions have arisen, such as; why are we using such old technology to count ballots; why does it take so long to count the votes; and, what can be done to improve the system? Since free and fair elections are the foundation upon which our democratic system of government is based, I feel as an election official that it is appropriate and responsible for me to address these questions in an open forum.

Initially, I'd like to explain why California is not Florida. Florida election officials are required to have a certified vote count 7 days after the election. California election officials have 28 days to certify an election. Why does California have four times longer than Florida? Our state law requires an extensive post-election canvass to ensure that the election totals are correct before certification.

First, we must reconcile our rosters from each precinct by comparing the number of signatures in the rosters against the number of ballots counted. Voted ballots, absentee ballots turned in at a polling place, or provisional ballots may be sent in error back to the warehouse rather than to the counting centers. By reconciling the roster it is possible to account for all the ballots and to determine if all the ballots have arrived to be counted or if voted ballots were inadvertently misfiled with returning supplies.

Secondly, in addition to the extensive "pre" and "post" election testing of our computer counting programs, California election officials are required by law to hand tally 1% of the precincts in every election to ensure that the machines counted correctly. This is a final check to ensure that the election totals are correct. It would be impossible to do this process in seven days. While these statutory requirements provide for a much more thorough canvass and certification process, Californians must not simply sit back and relax, but rather, look to the future for new and even better ways to ensure that every vote counts.

It is true that many counties in California and around the United States are using old vote counting equipment. It is not difficult to understand why this has occurred. Under our Federal system of government the conduct of elections is mostly left to the states. State governments have traditionally given the responsibility for conducting elections to local officials, either county or city. Over the years as local government budgets have

been tightened, local governing boards have been presented with a choice of buying new voting systems or keeping police and firefighters on the street. This generally not a difficult choice for a local official. While replacement of many of these systems is badly needed, it is not the only answer making elections more efficient.

Voting systems are only as accurate as the people who use them. Punch card systems, such as the Votomatic system used in many Florida and California counties, are very accurate when used correctly. When election officials maintain the equipment and design ballots properly and voters fully punch their ballots, the system works without error. However, when the equipment is not serviced properly or voters do not ensure that all the paper chads are removed from the punch card positions on the ballot card, the system cannot count the votes correctly. There is no foolproof system. Even new electronic or optical scan voting equipment is susceptible to error when not maintained properly by election officials or when used improperly by voters.

California elections have become incredibly complex. In an attempt to serve every voter in every situation the Legislature has given us an Elections Code that is sometimes difficult to understand and nearly impossible to implement without error. Take absentee voting as an example. Everyone knows that an absentee voter is a person who does not vote at his or her polling place on election day. But most people do not know that there are 8 different classifications of absentee voters, each with different laws and rules regulating them. There are regular absentee voters, special absentee voters, permanent absentee voters, in-person absentee voters, 7-day absentee voters, Federal absentee voters, new resident voters and new citizen voters.

On election day in the polls there are regular voters, provisional voters, fail-safe voters, absentee voters surrendering unvoted ballots, absentee voters delivering voted ballots, cancelled voters, late but eligible voters, etc. The list of exceptions has become much longer than the rule.

How do we resolve these problems? It is important to make state and Federal funding available to local governments to update and upgrade their vote counting equipment. This will help in the process but is not the only answer. We must also look at ways to simplify a system that is nearly ready to fail under its own

weight. We must consider new alternatives to the cumbersome provisional and fail safe ballots, such as election day registration in central locations for people who have missed the registration deadline, to eliminate the cumbersome process of certifying these ballots after the election.

Serious thought must be given to eliminating the consolidation of hundreds of local jurisdictions with State and Federal elections to reduce the number of ballot types each county must produce. Standard procedures throughout the state for the canvass, election certification and recounts must be codified. Legislators, political parties and the public must be willing to think about new ways to conduct elections that simplify and safeguard the integrity of the process. In considering revisions and simplifications of the elections code, it is important for policy makers to listen to election administrators who have valuable experience and a career state in making the electoral process work to promptly and accurately count every vote cast.

Bradley J. Clark is the Alameda County Registrar of Voters. He can be reached at 1225 Fallon St., Room G-1, Oakland, CA 94612. Ph: 510-272-6933, e-mail: [reg2vote@aol.com](mailto:reg2vote@aol.com)

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## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY'S HEA INDUCTS NEW OFFICERS



San Bernardino County's Hispanic Employee Alliance inducted new officers at a luncheon meeting at the Uptowner Restaurant, San Bernardino, with 90 members attending the ceremony. Pictured above are the new officers: Arthur Milian, President; Joe Rodriguez, Vice-president; Rosa Granado, Secretary; Lynne Chacon, Treasurer; Evelyn Bobbitt, Allen Sanchez and Ray Cadena, Trustees. Founded in 1989, the employee group's primary goals are to create a county employee network, employee development and training programs and liaison with county officials for employee upward mobility. Since its inception, HEA has granted 36 (\$500) scholarships to employees and students.



### Citizens of City of San Bernardino Take to Opposing Sides of Racial Divide

By: Jessica Carney

Continued from Page 1



MAPA members were part of the marchers that protested in front of San Bernardino City Hall against City Attorney Jim Penman's written comments offering a "one way offer to Valente Duran and his family to Mexico." Duran had previously stated to a local newspaper that "in Mexico, they treat us better than here." Photo by IEHN

of what you believe would be better treatment by the government of Mexico. Therefore, in substitution for the housing, food, and other assistance the City of San Bernardino is voluntarily providing, we want to give you the option of continuing to receive the assistance or accepting our offer to arrange and pay for transportation for you and your family, one way, to Mexico."

Immediately Penman's statements were declared racist, criticized by Mayor Judith Valles and City Council members, and likened to Civil Rights' Era comments that if black people don't like the way they're treated in America then they should go back to Africa.

"I don't think he was thinking clearly," Valles told the Press-Enterprise. "He was probably angry when he wrote it."

Duran said he was confused and insulted by Penman's letter because four of his children were born in the United States. He said his comments were made because of his frustration at being given only one day to move.

The Mexican American Political Association issued a press release on January 5 calling Penman's remarks to Duran a "hate letter" that "contributes to the discrimination of the Mexican community in the City of San Bernardino."

"Jim Penman is committed to create hatred in the community against the Mexican population by the white race," the press release continued.

Local MAPA Chairman Gil Navarro committed his, and MAPA's efforts to pushing for Penman's resignation. They are also asking the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate discrimination and violations of the civil rights of the Duran family and all families evicted from the Cypress Inn Trailer Park.

MAPA staged a march on City Hall to protest Penman's statements. Marching up and down the steps outside City Hall on D Street, protestors carried signs saying, "Penman is a

cancer," "Penman is a racist," and "Fuera con Penman."

While he acknowledged Duran's obvious distress over his family's displacement, Penman's position was unwavering, as he rehashed his words and actions in a newspaper editorial:

"I wanted Duran to know that his comment was viewed as a criticism of the efforts and money being provided to him by the people of San Bernardino. I also wanted him to know that we did not believe such criticism was justified."

The evacuees were offered \$5,000 in relocation aid and free hotel stay until January 31. In addition, Penman referred to the community support for the displaced families in the form of food and Christmas gifts.

In response to the allegations that his statements reeked of racism, Penman replied:

"Some people and certain groups seem to believe that anyone who makes the kind of comments I made to Duran is a racist. The fact that some people may object to Duran's statements for hateful reasons does not make it wrong for the rest of us to object to his statements, because they insulted us, our city and our country."

As a result of what local Hispanic leaders call racist remarks, Valles and the City Council voted on January 8 to censure Penman for, "unauthorized and insensitive conduct."

The council also agreed, by a 5-2 vote, to repeal a 1984 ordinance that prevents the mayor and council from hiring outside lawyers without the city attorney's permission. This would make it easier for the council to seek legal advice from someone other than the city attorney.

The council's action also overturns one aspect of the recently defeated Measure M - the City Charter containing an initiative to change the office of City Attorney from an elected to an appointed position.

The repeal action was voted for a second time by the city council at a meeting on January 16.

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